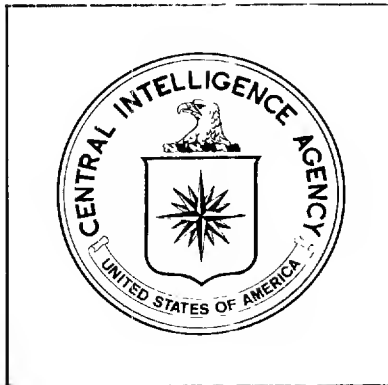


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STAFF NOTES:

Soviet Union Eastern Europe

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September 30, 1975

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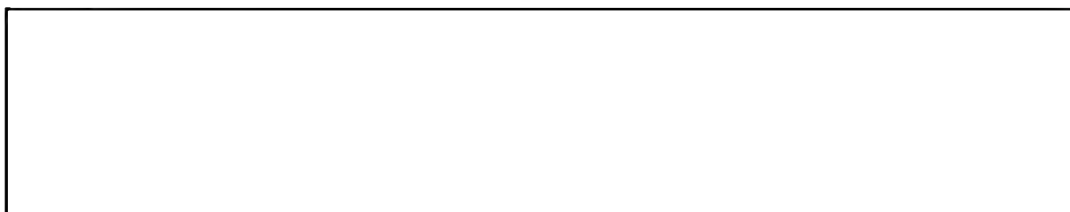
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SOVIET UNION - EASTERN EUROPE



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C O N T E N T S

September 30, 1975

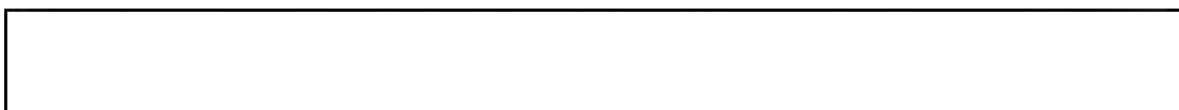


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Cultural Conference in Romania. 3

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Cultural Conference in Romania

The annual meeting of culture ministers from ten socialist countries--held in Bucharest last week--apparently made little progress in reaching any common approach to problems raised by the Helsinki accords.

The communique issued at the close of the three-day conference characterized the proceedings as an "extensive exchange of opinions," and frequently used the word "debate" to describe the discussions. Dealing with the expected ideological confrontation over the expanded contacts and exchanges of information provisions in Basket III of the Helsinki agreements seems to have been a major sticking point.

The Romanians, as usual, were determined to resist any kind of ideological coordination or regimentation. President Ceausescu urged the conference to divert its debate from the "cultural-artistic-information" flow, to problems of "economic equality" and overcoming the gap between rich and poor nations. This formulation is anathema to the Soviets because it deviates from the strict Marxist-Leninist class-struggle concept and divides the world into "have" and "have not" countries. It also lumps the Soviet Union with the US, West Germany, and the major capitalist states as a "have."

Ceausescu also advised the participants to understand the "spirit" of the CSCE documents in terms of today's realities--an indirect slap at Moscow's attempt to reimpose ideological orthodoxy in the international communist movement.

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Poland: Joint Trade Commission

The fifth session of the US-Polish Joint Trade Commission, to be held in Warsaw on October 6-8, will focus on bilateral business relations and trade.

High on Warsaw's agenda will be Eximbank financing of major projects with US firms that are in the final stages of negotiation. These include a \$400-million General Motors proposal for a plant to produce delivery vans, a \$250-million bid on the Stalowa Wola forge and foundry, a \$110-million RCA proposal for color picture tube technology, and new International Harvester projects. The Poles are also likely to urge the US to work against EC trade barriers, which have hurt Polish hard currency earnings in recent years.

Poland's trade with the US increased almost fourfold to \$730 million between 1970 and 1974, according to Polish trade data. Imports from the US surged from \$58 million in 1970 to \$475 million in 1974--accounting for almost half of total East European imports from the US last year. Most of the increase stemmed from purchases of feed grains and meals. Eximbank credits extended in 1972 have enabled Poland to increase substantially its purchases of US machinery and equipment.

Polish exports to the US have increased more slowly, from \$93 million in 1970 to \$260 million in 1974. As a result, Poland recorded trade deficits with the US in 1973 and 1974 for the first time since 1964. Canned hams and pork traditionally account for 40 percent or more of Polish sales to the US.

New Polish orders for plant and equipment and continued large deliveries of grains--necessitated

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by cutbacks in grain deliveries from the USSR and shortfalls in its own harvest--will push Poland's purchases to more than \$600 million in 1975. Export prospects to the US are dim. In the first half of 1975, Polish exports to the US were down by more than 6 percent from the comparable period in 1974.

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